

Grand Avenue Northwest Corridor Study

Public Meeting - September 27, 2000

Project Overview

The Maricopa Association of Governments is conducting a Grand Avenue Northwest Corridor Study. The purpose of study is to develop long-range plans for improvements in the corridor between Loop 101 and Loop 303. The corridor study area is 2 miles wide and extends for a distance of 11.5 miles (see figure to the right). Consideration is to be given to pedestrian, bicycle, golf cart, transit, and HOV modes of travel but the emphasis will be on roadway improvements.

History

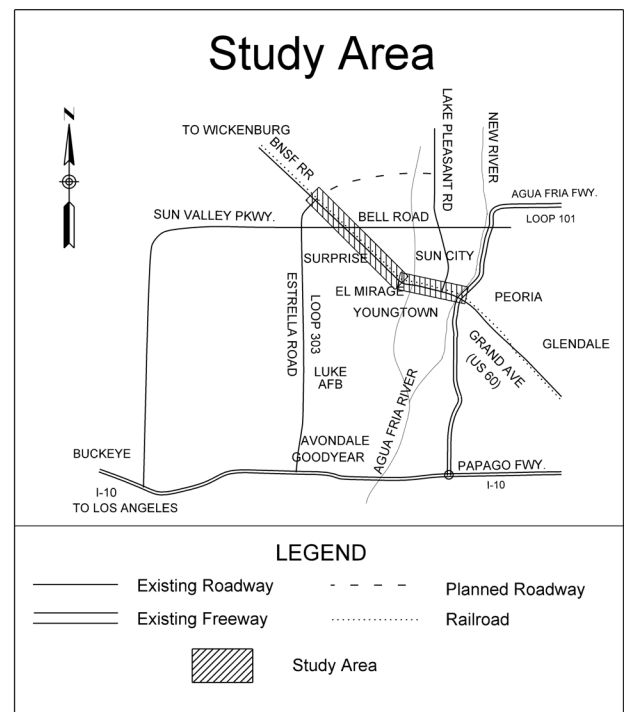
Grand Avenue has served as a major statewide route for many decades. It has historically carried the route numbers of US 60, US 93, SR 89 and others. Prior to the construction of I-10, Grand Avenue provided the linkage between Phoenix and Los Angeles.

Today, Grand is US 60. Its function has largely been replaced by I-10. Instead, Grand Avenue effectively serves as the extension of US 93 that begins in Wickenburg and continues northward across Hoover Dam to link with I-15 in Las Vegas.

Grand Avenue has been the subject of several studies over the past 15 years. The results of these studies are that Grand Avenue has been widened to a four-lane divided highway from 111th Avenue in Youngtown almost to the Beardsley Canal. These improvements have expedited traffic and helped to accommodate the tremendous growth that has occurred in the project area.

Earlier studies proposed to construct a freeway along Grand through the study area. These plans have been dropped. In 1998, MAG completed the Grand Avenue Corridor Study, which looked at several options for the whole corridor. These options included several routes that might divert traffic from Grand Avenue. None of these options were viewed favorably and the subsequent efforts were directed toward constructing grade separations east of Loop 101 at the six-legged intersections. In 1999 ADOT completed the Grand Avenue Major Investment Study which recommended seven grade separations plus a connection from 91st Avenue to Loop 101. The grade separations are currently under design and programmed to be completed by 2006.

This corridor study will focus on evaluating transportation investment opportunities for the section of Grand Avenue between Loop 101 and Loop 303.



Planned Improvements Affecting Study Area

Major improvements are underway or planned for adjacent sections of Grand Avenue or nearby highways that affect travel through the study area. These include:

- ADOT will begin construction this fall on the portion of Grand Avenue (US 60) from north of the Beardsley Canal to near the Wittman railroad overpass. This project will complete Grand Avenue as a four- or six-lane roadway from Phoenix to Wickenburg.
- ADOT has programmed 7 new grade separations along Grand Avenue east of Loop 101 to take one of the streets out of the six-legged intersections and a connection from 91st Avenue to Loop 101.
- MCDOT will begin construction of a Loop 303 overpass of Grand Avenue and the railroad this year. There will not be a direct connection to Grand Avenue with this initial project. A second project will extend the divided highway to the Union Hills Section Line.
- MCDOT is also developing plans to extend Loop 303 eastward to Lake Pleasant Road with construction programmed to begin in 2002. MCDOT is developing preliminary plans for expansion of the roadway southward to I-10 and further south. MAG is currently studying alternative alignments for extending Loop 303 to I-17.
- ADOT is upgrading US 93 to a four-lane divided highway north of Wickenburg.
- ADOT is evaluating a bypass around Wickenburg.

Schedule

The study was started in late July. Collection of background information and identification of issues is underway. Tonight the first public meeting is being held. By mid November, project goals and objectives will be developed. Identification of roadway and alternative mode needs will be completed by mid December. Alternative improvements will then be developed and evaluated. Input from the public on the alternatives will occur at a second public meeting tentatively scheduled for January, 2001. The Draft Final Report will be completed at the end of March, 2001.

Purpose of Meeting

This public meeting/ open house is designed to introduce the Grand Avenue Northwest Corridor Study to the public. The meeting also provides the public the opportunity to share their ideas, concern, and issues related to Grand Avenue. Your thoughts are greatly appreciated. **Please fill out the questionnaire.**

For additional information visit MAG's website: www.mag.maricopa.gov and look under *News and Events*.

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